



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Local Roads & Streets Council**  
**July 10, 2002**  
**Wisconsin Rapids City Council Chambers**  
**10:00 am to 3:30 pm**

**LRSC MEMBERS PRESENT**

**Wisconsin Counties Association**

Dick Leffler—Florence County  
Emmer Shields—Ashland County

**Wisconsin Towns Association**

Eugene Lueck – Bloomer  
Mildred Beier—Beaver Dam  
LaVerne Grunwald—Caledonia  
Norm Faber – Ithaca

**League of Wisconsin Municipalities**

Dave Waffle - Reedsburg

**Wisconsin Alliance of Cities**

Rick Jones—Racine  
Jeff Mantes (for Jeff Polenske) –Milw.

**Regional Planning Commissions/**

**Metropolitan Planning Organizations**

Walt Raith—Fox Cities and Oshkosh  
Don Kush—Eau Claire  
Bob Beglinger (for Ken Yunker) - SEWRPC

**WisDOT STAFF PRESENT**

Mary Forlenza  
Rod Clark  
Scott Bush  
Brian Zirbes  
Joe Nestler  
Kelly Schieldt  
Mike Kruger

**Others Present**

Phil Barnes-FHWA  
Bob Wagner-DTD  
Mike Hess  
Dan Fedderly – St. Croix Co.  
Dale Hexom – WI Rapids

**LRSC MEMBERS ABSENT**

Tom Boguszewski—Rock County  
Dennis Melvin-West Bend (Excused)  
Carl Weber - Green Bay (Excused)  
Gary Boden—Whitewater  
Bill Handlos—Manitowoc

**Opening Business (Rick Jones, Mary Forlenza)**

Rick Jones called the meeting to order. Mary Forlenza took roll call. Minutes from the May 1, 2002 meeting were accepted as written.

## **Administrative Items (Mary, Rick)**

Mary discussed the LRSC committee structure with the Council. She provided a matrix detailing the committee preferences of Council members. Dave Waffle asked about non-council members on the committees and how they felt about their role on the committee. Jeff Mantes indicated that he has always felt free to comment at meetings and that not being a full Council member has not been a hindrance. Emmer Shields called for expanding the number of non-council members on the committees. The consensus of the Council was that the number of non-council committee members should be expanded. It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at the next Exec. Committee meeting.

Mary discussed the desire by some Council members to move the Council meeting day to Thursdays. After some discussion it was decided to keep the meetings on Thursdays because a move to any other day of the week created more problems for members as the current day of the week does.

## **Education & Outreach Items (Scott, Brian)**

- Biennial Report  
Rick Jones indicated that work on the Biennial Report was progressing. He indicated that he would need help from Emmer on the REAL Committee portion of the report and help from Mary on Secretary's Committee on Program Streamlining. He indicated that the report would likely be finalized and e-mailed next week.
- Electronic address updates  
Brian Zirbes informed the Council on the status of the LRSC Postcard that had been mailed out. He indicated that the postcard was mailed to all heads of government and all clerks. He informed the Council that a typo was found on the card within the e-mail address that recipients were to respond to. He indicated that despite the error 76 responses were received and all local governments are aware that the LRSC Newsletter is only available electronically. The breakdown of responses is as follows:

- 50 new
- 15 removed
- 6 repeats
- 5 no e-mail

He also indicated the Summer newsletter was distributed to 1,225 e-mail addresses and provided a breakdown of who the recipients were as follows:

- 286 towns
  - 98 village
  - 126 cities
  - 106 counties
  - 132 public works
  - 122 legislature & governor
  - 79 UW Extension Community, Natural Resource and Economic Development Agents
  - 103 LRSC Distribution Lists
  - 173 others – consultants, engineering firms, etc
- Summer/Fall Newsletters
 

Scott Bush indicated to the Council that they should all have received the summer edition of the newsletter on June 20th. He asked the Council to provide any additional e-mail addresses they might have for the distribution list. He also indicated that the newsletter was available on the WisDOT internet and intranet sites and that the newsletter was profiled in two internal WisDOT newsletters.

Scott indicated that the target for the fall newsletter is a mid-September distribution and indicated the following as potential articles:

- WISLR (focus of newsletter with August launch) – Joe Nestler
- LRIP Cycle – Marcia Traska
- Secretary's Committee on Project Streamlining (SCOP) – Mary
- Community Sensitive Design – John Haverberg
- Messages from the Chair and Secretary
- Calendar of events

Scott indicated that the winter newsletter is targeted for distribution in mid-December with the following potential articles:

- Secretary's message
- Message from the Chair
- Committee reports
- Environmental streamlining
- Biennial report
- WISLR
- LRIP audits
- Process review of LRIP audits
- STP-Urban/Rural and Local Bridge program
- Paserware v3.0
- New WisDOT Internet site
- Calendar of events

Scott also indicated that the WisDOT internet site upgrade completion is estimated for October.

- **LRSC Brochure**  
Mary indicated that the insert for the LRSC Brochure will be updated when the new members and committee appointments are finalized.
- **Budget Update**  
Rod indicated that WisDOT will continue to see travel restrictions and other operational restrictions continue into next year. He also warned the Council to keep a close eye on the funding for local projects, but stated that it was too early to tell what the budget impacts would be.
- **SCOP**  
Rod provided an update on the role of the DOT Districts. He indicated that the expectations of locals by DOT and the expectation of the DOT by locals were key issues. It was decided that Don Miller should come and give a presentation in September or January to talk about the pilot program.
- **Handouts (Rick Jones)**  
Rick shared two articles that he had recently read with the committee. One article dealt with the costs of private engineering firms vs. in house engineering and the other dealt with the idea of a freeway expansion referendum.

## **SE Wisconsin Regional Freeway Reconstruction Study & Preliminary Recommendations (Bob Beglinger, SEWRPC)**

Bob Beglinger provided the Council with a presentation on the SE Wisconsin Regional Freeway Reconstruction Study. He provided a PowerPoint presentation detailing the plan. He indicated that the study will help decide the most appropriate manner to rebuild the freeway system. He stated that rebuilding the freeways with safety improvements and additional lanes would prevent the congestion levels from doubling by the year 2020. His presentation outlined the current options being considered in the study and mainly focused on the different schemes for adding or not adding lanes.

Rick Jones asked about the study's impact on the Marquette Interchange and whether the interchange should have more lanes. Bob stated that the study had no impact on the interchange and that the foot print of the interchange would accommodate additional lanes. Rick indicated that this view was short sighted and that the additional lanes are needed now. He sighted the move of companies in Racine to the interstate to take advantage of the ease of transportation. Phil Barnes

stated that an expansion would require an EIS and that the project already has a FONSI. Pursuing an EIS would delay the construction.

Phil Barnes suggested that Bob contact planners in Boston to gain some insight into the problems they faced during the Big Dig Project and how they were overcome and the types of economic development the project has provided.

Jeff Mantes indicated that the system would likely be rebuilt based on age and need with the oldest portions being rebuilt first.

Phil Barnes suggested that the plan propose the full 127 miles of additional lanes and then adjust from there based on better information.

Rod indicated that the full 127 miles of additional lanes should be recommended in the study in order to sell the benefit of the plan to the rest of the state.

Jeff Mantes indicated that a northern bypass was not fully studied because it did not consider eight lanes through the full bypass route.

### **WISLR Update (Joe Nestler, Kelly Schieldt, Mike Krueger, WisDOT)**

Joe Nestler presented a power point presentation to the Council regarding the status of WISLR. He indicated that in August Phase I and Enhancements would be online for locals to view the data and that more time would be required to get Phase II online. He indicated that the WISLR Web application is 95% complete and that the conversion of the 2001 data is complete. He further stated that having the pavement data available in August is questionable. There are a number of problems with some of the data submitted that will need to be corrected before the data can be loaded. Kelly Schieldt and Mike Krueger provided the Council with a live demonstration of WISLR and showed the Council the various functions of the program.

Walt Raith asked if functional classification would be available from WISLR and Mike indicated that it would be.

Mary asked who was performing name changes on roads when errors were indicated. Kelly indicated that central office would do most of the work on name changes with some help from the Districts.

Emmer asked about conflicts between mileage in WISLR and actual mileage and how these issues would be resolved. Joe indicated that a threshold will need to be established to determine of how much of a difference between the two numbers will require an field check.

Dick Leffler asked if the costs of each improvement will be recorded in WISLR. Joe replied that he would look into it.

Don Kush asked if the segment identifiers along with the On-At will be available in WISLR. Joe and Kelly indicated that the on-at will be displayed on WISLR and the segment numbers will not.

Bob Wagner indicated that there needs to be some communication on how changes to the data will be made by Districts to the portions of the data they are responsible for. Kelly replied that a system needs to be developed for Districts to go out in the field and verify changes on a regular basis.

Emmer asked if additional attributes could be added to WISLR such as weight limits, posted roads, or truck routes. Joe indicated that attributes can be added but that budget consideration will dictate what can be done.

### **Environmental Streamlining Update (WisDOT)**

Mary discussed the status of the DNR Letter from the Council to DNR and the corresponding response letter. She indicated that a mix up had taken place regarding Dave Siebert from the DNR contacting Rick but that the issue had been resolved. She indicated that the outcome of the letter would be a conference between locals and the DNR in either February or March of 2003.

Emmer Shields indicated that we are looking for ways to better work together and that we don't want the conference to be an effort solely to educate locals on regulations.

### **Committee Chairs/Members meet to discuss 2003 meeting dates, priorities**

It was decided that this item would be taken up at the Exec Committee meeting in August.

### **Closing Business**

- Draft Agenda for September 4, 2002 Council Meeting
  - Utilities in the Public Right-of-Way
  - Overview of SCOP
  - Process Review – Local Roads Improvement Program Audits
  - State Budget and Federal Reauthorization

Adjourn